

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for rendering a character for display in grayscale on a grayscale output device, comprising:

means for defining a coarse grid of cells, each coarse cell corresponding to an output device grayscale pixel, and a high-resolution grid of fine cells, the high-resolution grid being aligned with said coarse grid so that each coarse cell includes an integer number of undivided fine cells, the grids defining edges of the cells;

means for placing a character defined by a font program with reference to the coarse grid and fine grid, the character having a stem hinted with two parallel edges that are placed with reference to the grids when the character is so placed, the stem hint edges being separated by a stem width; and

stem aligner means for processing the stem before rendering the character ~~font program~~ for output on the output device, the stem aligner means comprising means for performing a black-edge hinted stem placement policy, wherein the black-edge policy considers stem width when determining stem placement.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the number of fine cells per coarse cell is determined according to the number of grayscale levels that can be produced by a pixel of the output device.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the number of fine cells per coarse cell is determined by a single, client-selected grid ratio.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the stem aligner means further comprises means for performing an unbiased-stems hinted stem placement policy.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein:

the means for performing a black-edge policy comprise:

means for rounding the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells; and

means for determining the stem width; and

means for, if the stem width is at least one coarse grid cell, moving the stem with rounded width a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem hint edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge; and

the means for performing an unbiased-stems policy comprise:

means for rounding the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells;

means for determining a minimum number of coarse cells that can be spanned by the rounded width of the stem; and

means for determining whether the stem spans more than the minimum number of coarse cells and, if it does, for moving the stem a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem hint edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge.

6. (Currently Amended) A system for rendering a character for display in grayscale on a grayscale output device, comprising:

means for defining a coarse grid of cells, each coarse cell corresponding to an output device grayscale pixel, and a high-resolution grid of fine cells, the high-resolution grid being aligned with said coarse grid so that each coarse cell includes an integer number of undivided fine cells;

means for placing a character defined by a font program with reference to the coarse grid and fine grid, the character having a stem hinted with two parallel edges that is placed with reference to the grids when the character is so placed, the stem hint edges being separated by a stem width; and

stem aligner means for processing the stem before rendering the character ~~font program~~ for output on the output device, the stem aligner means comprising means for performing an unbiased-stems hinted stem placement policy, wherein the unbiased-stems policy considers stem spread when determining stem placement.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein:
the number of fine cells per coarse cell is determined by a single, client-selected grid ratio.
8. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein:
the number of fine cells per coarse cell is determined according to the number of grayscale levels that can be produced by a pixel of the output device.
9. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein:
the stem aligner means further comprises means for performing a black-edge hinted stem placement policy.
10. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a stem of a character outline, comprising:
selecting a hinted stem placement policy from a set of policies comprising at least either a black-edge policy or an unbiased-stems policy, where a black edge policy considers stem width when determining stem placement and an unbiased-stems policy considers stem spread when determining stem placement;
placing a character defined by a font program with reference to a coarse grid and an overlapping fine grid, the character having a stem hinted with two parallel edges that is placed with reference to the grids when the character is so placed, the stem hint edges being separated by a stem width; and
processing the stem before rendering the character ~~font program~~ for output on the output device in accordance with the selected policy.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising processing the stem in accordance with a black-edge policy by:
rounding the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells; ~~and~~
determining the stem width; and
if the stem width is at least one coarse cell, moving the stem with rounded width a
minimum distance so that at least one of the stem edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising processing the stem in accordance

with a unbiased-stems policy by:

- rounding the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells;
- determining a minimum number of coarse cells that can be spanned by the rounded width of the stem; and
- determining whether the stem spans more than the minimum number of coarse cells and, if it does, for moving the stem a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of policies comprises both a black-edge policy and an unbiased-stems policy.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the set of policies further comprises a hard-edge policy and a soft-edge policy.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the policy is specifically selected for vertical stems or horizontal stems.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the policy is selected for both vertical stems and horizontal stems.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

- selecting a first policy for vertical stems and a different second policy for horizontal stems.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, for rendering a character for display in grayscale on a grayscale output device, the product comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

- define a coarse grid of cells, each coarse cell corresponding to an output device grayscale pixel, and a high-resolution grid of fine cells, the high-resolution grid being aligned with said coarse grid so that each coarse cell includes an integer number of undivided fine cells, the grids defining edges of the cells;

- place a character defined by a font program with reference to the coarse grid and fine

grid, the character having a stem hinted with two parallel edges that are placed with reference to the grids when the character is so placed, the stem hint edges being separated by a stem width; and

perform a black-edge hinted stem placement policy, where the black-edge policy considers stem width when determining stem placement.

19. (Original) The product of claim 18, wherein:

the number of fine cells per coarse cell is determined according to the number of grayscale levels that can be produced by a pixel of the output device.

20. (Original) The product of claim 18, wherein:

the number of fine cells per coarse cell is determined by a single, client-selected grid ratio.

21. (Original) The product of claim 18, further comprising instructions to:

perform an unbiased-stems hinted stem placement policy.

22. (Currently Amended) The product of claim 18, wherein:

the instructions to perform a black-edge policy comprise instructions to:

round the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells; ~~and~~

determine the stem width; and

if the stem width is at least one coarse cell, move the stem with rounded width a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem hint edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge;

if the stem width is less than one coarse cell, perform an unbiased-stems policy;

and

the instructions to perform an unbiased-stems policy comprise instructions to:

round the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells;

determine a minimum number of coarse cells that can be spanned by the rounded width of the stem; and

determine whether the stem spans more than the minimum number of coarse cells

and, if it does, move the stem a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem hint edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, for rendering a character for display in grayscale on a grayscale output device, the product comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

define a coarse grid of cells, each coarse cell corresponding to an output device grayscale pixel, and a high-resolution grid of fine cells, the high-resolution grid being aligned with said coarse grid so that each coarse cell includes an integer number of undivided fine cells, the grids defining edges of the cells;

place a character defined by a font program with reference to the coarse grid and fine grid, the character having a stem hinted with two parallel edges that are placed with reference to the grids when the character is so placed, the stem hint edges being separated by a stem width; and

perform an unbiased-stems hinted stem placement policy, wherein the unbiased-stems policy considers stem spread when determining stem placement.

24. (Original) The product of claim 23, further comprising instructions to:

perform a black-edge hinted stem placement policy.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, for processing a stem of a character outline, the product comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

select a hinted stem placement policy from a set of policies comprising at least either a black-edge policy or an unbiased-stems policy, where a black-edge policy considers stem width when determining stem placement and an unbiased-stems policy considers stem spread when determining stem placement;

place a character defined by a font program with reference to a coarse grid and an overlapping fine grid, the character having a stem hinted with two parallel edges that is placed with reference to the grids when the character is so placed, the stem hint edges being separated by a stem width; and

process the stem before rendering the character font program for output on the output device in accordance with the selected policy.

26. (Currently Amended) The product of claim 25, further comprising instructions to:
- process the stem in accordance with a black-edge policy, including instructions to:
 - round the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells; and
 - move the stem with rounded width a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge.
27. (Original) The product of claim 25, further comprising instructions to:
- process the stem in accordance with a unbiased-stems policy, including instructions to:
 - round the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells;
 - determine a minimum number of coarse cells that can be spanned by the rounded width of the stem; and
 - determine whether the stem spans more than the minimum number of coarse cells and, if it does, move the stem a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge.
28. (Original) The product of claim 25, wherein the set of policies comprises both a black-edge policy and an unbiased-stems policy.
29. (Original) The product of claim 28, wherein the set of policies further comprises a hard-edge policy and a soft-edge policy.
30. (Original) The product of claim 25, wherein the policy is specifically selected for vertical stems or horizontal stems.
31. (Original) The product of claim 25, wherein the policy is selected for both vertical stems and horizontal stems.
32. (Original) The product of claim 25, further comprising:
- selecting a first policy for vertical stems and a different second policy for horizontal stem

33. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein the means for performing an unbiased-stems policy comprise:

means for rounding the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells;

means for determining a minimum number of coarse cells that can be spanned by the rounded width of the stem; and

means for determining whether the stem spans more than the minimum number of coarse cells and, if it does, for moving the stem a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem hint edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge.

34. (New) The product of claim 23, wherein instructions operable to perform an unbiased-stems hinted stem placement policy include instructions operable to:

round the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells;

determine a minimum number of coarse cells that can be spanned by the rounded width of the stem; and

determine whether the stem spans more than the minimum number of coarse cells and, if it does, move the stem a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem hint edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge.

35. (New) A method for rendering a character for display in grayscale on a grayscale output device, comprising:

defining a coarse grid of cells, each coarse cell corresponding to an output device grayscale pixel, and a high-resolution grid of fine cells, the high-resolution grid being aligned with said coarse grid so that each coarse cell includes an integer number of undivided fine cells;

placing a character defined by a font program with reference to the coarse grid and fine grid, the character having a stem hinted with two parallel edges that is placed with reference to the grids when the character is so placed, the stem hint edges being separated by a stem width; and

processing the stem before rendering the character for output on the output device including performing an unbiased-stems hinted stem placement policy, wherein the unbiased-

stems policy considers stem spread when determining stem placement.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein processing the stem before rendering the character further includes performing a black-edge hinted stem placement policy.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein:
the number of fine cells per coarse cell is determined by a single, client-selected grid ratio.

38. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein:
the number of fine cells per coarse cell is based on the number of grayscale levels that can be produced by a pixel of the output device.

39. (New) A method for rendering a character for display in grayscale on a grayscale output device, comprising:

defining a coarse grid of cells, each coarse cell corresponding to an output device grayscale pixel, and a high-resolution grid of fine cells, the high-resolution grid being aligned with said coarse grid so that each coarse cell includes an integer number of undivided fine cells, the grids defining edges of the cells;

placing a character defined by a font program with reference to the coarse grid and fine grid, the character having a stem hinted with two parallel edges that are placed with reference to the grids when the character is so placed, the stem hint edges being separated by a stem width; and

processing the stem before rendering the character for output on the output device, including performing a black-edge hinted stem placement policy, where the black-edge policy considers stem width when determining stem placement.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising,
performing an unbiased-stems hinted stem placement policy.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein:
performing a black-edge policy comprises:

rounding the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells;
determining the stem width;

if the stem width is at least one coarse cell, moving the stem with rounded width a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem hint edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge; and

if the stem width is less than one coarse cell, performing an unbiased-stems policy;

and performing an unbiased-stems policy comprises:

rounding the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells;

determining a minimum number of coarse cells that can be spanned by the rounded width of the stem; and

determining whether the stem spans more than the minimum number of coarse cells and, if it does, moving the stem a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem hint edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge.

42. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein:

the number of fine cells per coarse cell is determined by a single, client-selected grid ratio.

43. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein:

the number of fine cells per coarse cell is based on the number of grayscale levels that can be produced by a pixel of the output device.

44. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising processing the stem in accordance with a black-edge policy by:

rounding the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells;

determining the stem width;

if the stem width is at least one coarse cell, moving the stem with rounded width a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge; and

if the stem width is less than one coarse cell, processing the stem in accordance with the

unbiased-stems policy.

45. (New) The product of claim 28, further comprising instructions to process the stem in accordance with a black-edge policy, including instructions to:

round the stem width to the width of an integral number of fine cells;

determine the stem width;

if the stem width is at least one coarse cell, move the stem with rounded width a minimum distance so that at least one of the stem edges aligns with a parallel coarse cell edge;
and

if the stem width is less than one coarse cell, process the stem in accordance with the unbiased-stems policy.